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**EL DORADO COUNTY MAN SENTENCED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGES**

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that MICHAEL CONAN PITTS, 27, of Pollock Pines, California, was sentenced today to 57 months in prison for possessing child pornography. PITTS was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Lawrence K. Karlton, who also imposed a 5-year term of supervised release which will commence following the completion of Pitt's prison term.

This case was the product of a joint investigation by the FBI, El Dorado County Sheriff's, Department, and the El Dorado County District Attorney's office.

PITTS pleaded guilty in July of this year to allegations he possessed images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct, first, in the Fall of 2002, and again in October of 2003. PITTS was charged by the El Dorado County District Attorney with misdemeanor charges of possessing child pornography stemming from an investigation conducted by local authorities in the Fall of 2002. According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Laurel D. White, who prosecuted the case, the local pornography charges were dismissed in lieu of the federal prosecution at the request of the El Dorado County District Attorney Gary Lacy. PITTS faced a maximum penalty of 5 years for the possession of child pornography charge relating to his possession in 2002, and a maximum 10-year term of imprisonment for his possession in 2003. The law changing the maximum penalty for possessing child pornography took affect on April 31, 2003.

In addition to the federal pornography prosecution, PITTS also faces a state kidnaping charge filed last year by the El Dorado County District Attorney's office. The kidnaping charge relates to allegations PITTS abducted a 9-year old Pollock Pines girl in October of last year. The girl was able to free herself and escaped. PITTS faces a possible 11-year maximum sentence if convicted of the kidnaping charge.

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